

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, April 23, 2004

MPDC TO ROLL OUT NEW PSA STRUCTURE ON MAY 2

On May 2, 2004, the MPDC implements a major restructuring of its Police Service Areas (PSAs), a basic building block of community policing in the District of Columbia. The new structure is designed to enhance police services in DC neighborhoods and to increase community involvement in community policing. This is accomplished by aligning the PSAs more closely with DC neighborhoods, improving police coordination with other city services in addressing problems that impact crime, and by giving PSAs the staffing flexibility to fight crime more effectively at the neighborhood level. The restructuring plan reduces the number of PSAs from 83 to 44, thus creating new boundaries for all of the PSAs as well as for several of the police districts. For example, the northern boundary of the Third District is extended to consolidate several Northwest neighborhoods that are now part of the Fourth District. In Northeast DC, the First District will include a few PSAs that are currently in 5D. The PSA restructuring plan was developed following nearly a year of public discussion and a 60-day review by the DC Council. In addition to changing boundaries, the MPDC has been working to update computer systems and reassign personnel, vehicles and other resources to ensure a smooth transition to the new system on May 2.

- ① For details on the PSA restructuring plan, including maps showing the new PSA and police district boundaries, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/PSAs_proposed.shtm
- ① View a summary of the key issues comparing the new PSA plan with the current structure:
http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/PSAs_proposed_summary.shtm
- ① The MPDC has announced the planned staffing levels for the new PSAs, available in PDF at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/Matrix10_Hearing_022304.pdf

DC CRIME VICTIMS GIVE HIGH MARKS TO MPDC OFFICERS

Metropolitan Police officers get generally high marks from crime victims for being respectful, knowledgeable and showing concern, with three out of every four victims reporting satisfaction with the overall police response. And while most DC crime victims who received follow-up from the MPDC said they were satisfied, victims do want more follow-up information, referrals and other resources from the police. These are among the findings of a new citywide survey of crime victims conducted by the MPDC. Police recruits interviewed by telephone close to 400 randomly selected individuals who had recently been victims of one of five crime types: aggravated assault, auto theft, burglary, robbery and simple assault. Survey respondents were asked 29 questions designed to help police officials better understand the needs of crime victims and measure their satisfaction with police services. The survey findings were released as DC and the nation commemorated National Crime Victims' Rights Week, a time to remember the victims of crime and raise awareness of victims' rights and services. Chief Ramsey said the survey results demonstrate the MPDC's continued progress in addressing the needs of crime victims in the District. He cited several recent victim assistance initiatives, including establishment of the MPDC's first Family Liaison Specialist Unit to support the families of homicide victims, specialized training for 9-1-1 call-takers on domestic violence issues, specially trained domestic violence detectives in all police districts, and improved communication with victim advocacy organizations. In the survey, 74 percent of victims said they were either very satisfied (42 percent) or somewhat satisfied (32 percent) with the services they received from the MPDC. Fully 94 percent of victims said the police officers who responded to the initial call were either very respectful (79 percent) or somewhat respectful (15 percent), and three-quarters or more of the victims said that officers demonstrated positive interaction skills.

- ① Read the news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2665>
- ① To read the executive summary of the victim survey (in PDF), go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/VictimSurvey_04.pdf
- ① For information about the Family Liaison Unit and other victim assistance resources in DC, visit:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/VictimSurvey_04.pdf

MPDC OUTLINES CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY05

In testimony this past week before the DC Council's Committee on the Judiciary, senior MPDC officials outlined the Department's proposed capital funds budget for fiscal year 2005, which begins on October 1, 2004. Eric Coard, Senior Executive Director for Corporate Support, told the Committee that Mayor Williams has proposed approximately \$18.6 million in new capital funds for the MPDC for three major initiatives: facilities, vehicles and information technology. Approximately \$5.3 million is allocated for continued renovations of MPDC facilities. Over the past five years, the MPDC has upgraded almost all of its facilities, including district stations, a new substation on Park Road, NW, and a new Regional Operations Command headquarters in the Petworth neighborhood. The proposed capital budget will also support the next phase of the construction of a new Special Operations Division headquarters, to replace the inadequate and aging SOD facility at 23rd and L Streets, NW. Another \$5.2 million is earmarked for the purchase of between 200 and 250 new vehicles. Through a regular vehicle purchase program, the MPDC has reduced the average age of its fleet from 10 to approximately 4 years. Finally, the FY05 capital budget proposes \$8.1 million for critical information technology projects, including continued development of the Enforcement Services Modernization Program.

DMV SUSPENDS TEMPORARY TAGS ISSUED BY USED CAR DEALERS; FOLLOWS INVESTIGATION OF WIDESPREAD ABUSE

Anne Witt, Director of DC's Department of Motor Vehicles, this past week announced a 120-day emergency suspension of used-car dealers' ability to issue temporary tags. The moratorium follows months of investigation identifying abuse of temporary tags, which has been linked to illegal activity that endangers public health and safety. Improperly obtained temporary tags can provide a means for operating vehicles that cannot pass required air emission or safety inspections, lack adequate required insurance coverage, or have been stolen. Likewise, they may allow operators to skirt District residence or other registration requirements (for example, paying outstanding ticket debts). The \$13 temporary tags are reported to have a street value of upwards of \$150. Chief Ramsey said, "many of the vendors seem to be making more from the sale of tags than the vehicles. This illegal practice deprives our citizens of revenue and contributes to crime," as some criminals seek to avoid detection by using fraudulent temporary tags. Witt added, "the numbers show the situation is out of control—last year more than 79,000 temporary tags were issued compared with only 36,000 in 2002. Worse, only 12,000 were reported sold to DC residents. Of those, less than 3,100 resulted in permanent registrations." Redesigned temporary tags for used cars are available at a special DMV office at 301 C Street, NW—Room 1032, which is open Monday through Saturday, 8:15 am–4 pm.

NEWS & NOTES

Deputy Mayor Kellems To Depart. After nearly four years as Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, Margret Nedelkoff Kellems is departing city service in June to join a national investment firm. Kellems, who oversees homeland security, police, fire, emergency medical services, corrections, emergency management and the medical examiner, joined the Williams administration in September 2000. She is credited with spearheading a number of important reforms, including improved funding for homeland security, more police officers and emergency 9-1-1 communications upgrades. Details at <http://dc.gov/news/release.asp?id=588>.

Upcoming Chats with Chief Ramsey. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues during two interactive sessions on Wednesday, April 28: from 12 noon-1 pm, the Chief participates in an online chat at washingtonpost.com; from 5-6 pm, he takes phone calls during his regular monthly appearance on the "Live at Five" program on WOL Radio (1450 AM).

① Read the MPDC's complete statement on the proposed FY05 capital budget at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2004/04/042104.shtml>

① Last month, Chief Ramsey testified before the Judiciary Committee on the MPDC's proposed, \$398 million operating budget for FY05. Read his statement at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2004/03/033004.shtml>

① Read the DMV news release at:
<http://dmv.dc.gov/about/042004-1.shtml>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 4/23/04)

- 2004: 60
- 2003: 79
- % Change: -24.1%
- Closure Rate: 50% (30 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 4/17/04)

- Total: 959
- Drugs: 159
- Weapons: 19
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 16
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 36

Firearm Recoveries (as of 4/20/04)

- April: 74
- 2004 Total: 636

Traffic Fatalities (as of 4/23/04)

- 2004: 20
- 2003: 14
- % Change: +42.9%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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